

Job Fair Q & A

Q1. Are the 167 positions to be filled for the Office of Information Technology (OIT) and the Technology Acquisition Center (TAC), or just TAC?

A1. The 167 positions are for the TAC. OIT will have separate positions.

Q2. Are the currently available jobs only for Federal employees?

A2. Yes the current jobs are for current federal employees or re-instatement eligible. In the future there will be Intern positions that will be open to the public. Future opportunities both from the TAC and/or OIT may be open to the public, but that has yet to be determined.

Q3. Does the TAC fall under Veterans Affairs Central Office (VACO) or Veterans Health Administration (VHA)?

A3. VACO

Q4. Is anything being considered to make exception to the Army School Service Agreements that may be in place for employees switching to VA?

A4. VA is looking to accommodate this situation and will keep you posted on the status via this web site. Please check back.

Q5. How long does a new VA employee have to wait before they are eligible for Tuition Assistance?

A5. VA employees are eligible for this on the first day they begin working for the organization.

Q6. Is OIT a sister organization?

A6. OIT is our internal VA customer. They are a VA organization under a different chain of command.

Q7. Are there any plans for VA to go to the NSPS pay system?

A7. Not at this time and it seems highly unlikely that this will happen in the future.

Q8. When will the announcements for GS-7/9/11 Interns be out?

A8. We are planning to hire the interns by the end of summer '09.

Q9. If you are a GS-11 Intern, will you have to come to VA as a GS-7 Intern and start over?

A9. No you will remain at your current Grade level

Q10. How closely aligned does someone from the outside need to be in order to qualify for these jobs, especially if they only have private industry experience?

A10. The key is to take your private industry knowledge, skills, and abilities and relate them to the federal position as closely as possible within your application. Pay special attention to the job announcement to see what the hiring organization is looking for, and then make sure you can match your experiences with the duties they are seeking.

Q11. Is the Resumix system that Army uses the same as the USAJobs Resume Builder?

A11. No they are different systems and they do not transfer your information.

Q12. Is VA limited to how many employees they can bring on each month?

A12. We are limited by the building space that we have available. Currently we have 87 spaces in the Industrial Way location and we are looking to find a second location to accommodate staffing up to 167 by the end of summer '09.

Q13. How long does it typically take for VA Human Resources (HR) to contact you to let you know if you have been accepted or not for a position?

A13. This varies, and with the large volume of HR vacancy requests the system is taking additional time to respond to candidates.

Q14. Will there be opportunities for Logistics personnel?

A14. There may be a small number in Washington DC or Frederick, MD. The Central office only has a few positions.

Q15. If you applied for a position that is continuous and were not selected do you need to re-apply each month?

A15. Yes, re-apply each month, unless you were told by HR that you are not eligible for the position.

Q16. Where do Systems Engineers look for positions?

A16. USAJobs.gov, same as all others.

Q17. These jobs are not listed at the VA hospitals, how does one find these jobs?

A17. USAjobs.gov

Q18. Are there financial and budget analysts positions?

A18. Yes there will be.

Q19. Will there be Information Technology positions, 2210 (Information Technology Management) series?

A19. These jobs could be available from OIT, but that has not been determined yet.

Q20. How many engineering positions will there be?

A20. That has not yet been defined.

Q21. The PM position announcements have already closed. Will there be more PM announcements coming out in the future?

A21. It could be possible, but we received over 200 resumes for the initial announcement that we need to review. After that selection process is completed, we will determine if we need to hire additional employees of this type.

Q22. If you were a former federal employee that has left and went to private industry can you apply for these current positions?

A22. If you had a career status when you left (typically 3 years of service), then you would be eligible to apply for the positions as re-instatement eligible.

Q23. How long is the VA intern program?

A23. The VA Intern Institute program is a 3 year program located at the Intern Academy in Frederick Maryland.

Q24. Do all TAC jobs require a degree?

A24. The contracting 1102 series jobs do require a degree. This requirement will vary on other job series. Please check each job announcement for specific requirements.

Q25. Is the USAjobs.gov website paper based for resume submission?

A25. Yes for the VA announcements

Q26. Is the TAC only for regional acquisition support?

A26. No the TAC will be serving our OIT customers nationwide.

Q27. Is a security clearance required for the TAC positions?

A27. Yes for most of the jobs there is a security clearance requirement. Check each job announcement for specific level required.

Q28. Does the VA have facilities overseas?

A28. Yes they have some presence in Europe, the Philippines, and in Puerto Rico.

Q29. Does VA follow the DOD 5000?

A29. No, but the leadership is looking to move towards a similar system and structure.

Q30. Can Current Temp / Term federal employees apply for the Federal only positions?

A30. No they are not eligible.

Q31. Will there be a possibility for re-assignment for current federal employees?

A31. Possibly.